

VINDICATOR

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Shaky Red Empire

CPYRGHT

Intelligence continues to pile up that the Hungarians' courageous revolt has seriously weakened the Soviet empire and may yet wreck it. The most significant recent news comes from the Russians themselves: Pravda denounces students and other intellectuals for their hostility to the Red regime.

This "revolution of the intellectuals" is highly important, especially since it has the support of the workers as in the Polish and Hungarian uprisings. As one authority on Soviet affairs comments: "It was the intellectuals and the workers who gave birth to Communism. Now these same people are beginning to tear it down."

The unrest among intellectuals in the satellites and Russia itself is not a wholly new-born result of the Hungarian outbreak. Eighteen months ago Allen Dulles, chief of Central Intelligence, asserted that "in introducing mass education the troubled Soviet leaders have loosed forces dangerous to themselves." The Kremlin had to industrialize Russia; to do so it had to introduce mass education; educated people are bound to look skeptically at Communism and ask pointed questions.

However, the Hungarian explosion greatly accelerated the process. It compelled the Kremlin to use brute force and thus unmask its pretense of peaceful good will. The revelation "sent shock waves around the world," as one writer observes, and revealed these Communist weaknesses:

A generation of youth reared by Communists is rejecting Communism. Satellite armies of a million men fight against Russia, but certainly won't fight for her.

Arab and Asian opinion, lately friendly to the Reds, has been turned against them.

Intellectuals and workers, traditionally the most powerful spark plugs of revolution, are revolting against Communism.

In this situation the Red empire is tottering. Yet as Secretary Dulles reported to NATO, the possibility of collapse is matched by a possibility that the Kremlin may try some desperate venture to prevent a breakup.

In broad view, what we are seeing is confirmation of the long-held view that the Communist monstrosity was bound to fail sooner or later because, as George Kennan wrote recently, it is "deeply wrong about human nature, wrong about how the world really works, wrong about the importance of moral forces, wrong in its whole outlook."

This reflection is paralleled by an article which Vice Admiral Leslie C. Stevens wrote for the Commonwealth shortly before his recent death. He observed that the Communists had tried to attract loyalty by promising "paradise on earth through totalitarianism," and continued:

"The great weakness of this scheme lies . . . in the heartening fact that most men, including the Soviet peoples, have moral and spiritual values that transcend purely materialistic logic." This is the truth which the Hungarians' courage has demonstrated, with momentous results which are not yet at an end.